Collaboration with USA For LCA

2209. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation and the United States Air Force have signed a letter of agreement in connection with the Light Combat Aircraft project;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the agreement; and

(c) whether France and USSR are also taking interest in the project; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Indo-US Defence Technology cooperation for the LCA programme, a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) was signed in Sept., 1988. This instrument enables payment to the US Govt. for availing their facilities. It covers activities related to lab-to-lab cooperation, studies and surveys, training and testing of components and systems.

(c) Yes, Sir. France and USSR have been taking interest in the LCA programme. Earlier there have been discussions and exchange of views with Soviet Union but no offer has been made by them. France had offered to cooperate and consequently an Agreement was signed with Avions Marcel Dassault Breguet Aviation of France to avail consultancy during the project Definition Phase (PDP) of the LCA programme.

Recategorisation of Refamapicin

2210. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 538 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th November, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the considered recommendation of expert committee in regard to recategorisation of Refamapicin;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry provided full details, information and policy on this subject to the committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that number of Representations submitted to his Ministry highlighting the factual position and exposing the wrong picture created by certain bureaucats were not provided to the committee; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e) The recommendations of the Expert Committee set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in respect of Category I drugs were considered in the Ministry. The Committee was requested to review the listing of drugs which are used in the eleven identified National Health Programmes for the purpose of price control. They were provided with the list of drugs prepared by the Government, the list of National Health Programmes and the various representations received regarding the lists for consideration and review. Drug Controller (India) was a member of the Expert Committee.

Revision of Electoral Rolls in Assam

2211. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people would be required to prove their citizenship credentials if the 1966 electoral rolls are used for the roll revision in Assam;

(b) whether representations have been made to the Election Commission to abandon this criteria;

(c) if so, what has been the reaction of the Commission;

(d) whether the matter has been referred to the Attorney General; and

(e) whether the Attorney General has since given his views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) The Commission has received representations from some political parties, organisations and individuals that if the 1966 electoral rolls are used for the roll revision in Assam, a large number of people would be required to prove their citizenship credentials.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As the issue raised involves policy decisions regarding the intention and purport of the Assam Accord and other statutory provisions, the Commission considered it necessary to seek clarifications from Government.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

News-item N-Plant winding up world-wide

2212. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated September 9, 1988 "N-Plant winding up world-wide while India is commissioning a new Atomic Plant at Narora";

(b) if so, reaction of the Government to the same; and

(c) whether the cost factor involved in the production of atomic energy is being considered by Government in going in for new Atomic Power plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Trend of curtailing or reduced ordering of nuclear power plants in some countries is mainly due to saturation of requirements and availability of other energy resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Launching of a Man into Space by India

2213. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a book published by its Publication Division in which the ISRO Chairman Dr. U. R. Rao has been quoted as stating that India would attain the capacity of launching a man into space by 1990;

(b) whether Government propose to take up the project for sending a man into space during the next decade; and

(c) if so, what is Government's policy for space research programme for the next ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, there is no specific proposal for sending a man to space from a national range in India or for conduct of a manned flight as a joint venture with any other country.

(c) The policy for Indian space programme for the next decade is to provide continuous, enhanced operational services on an assured basis, in telecommunication, broadcasting, meteorology and resources management, using indigenously developed satellites and their payloads as well